(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times, dated the 3rd November, 1998 captioned "All is not well with India's food bowl—stagnating farm output eradicating farmers' economic status";

(b) whether production level of wheat and rice crop reached a point of saturation in Punjab and per capita income of farmers was less than half as compared to State's average of per capita income of Rs. 16,044/-; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps Government have so far taken to increase production of major crops as well as for economic welfare of farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of wheat and rice in Punjab has been showing an increasing trend, albeit with fluctuations. The State's per capita income during the year 1995-96 was Rs. 16044 per annum. The per capita income exclusively of farmers or other categories is not worked out.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of various crops and improve economic lot of the farmers, the Government is implementing crop specific development programmes and schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing the Minimum Support Prices for major crops and making arrangements for the procurement through the nodal ageancies. The subsidised supply of fertilisers encourages its consumption resulting in higher production.

Losses due to floods in Eastern U.P.

500. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey and estimated loss of lives and property caused due to heavy floods in Eastern Uttar Pradesh particularly in Mau and Ballia districts;

(b) whether Government are aware that people of 'Dewara Area' (Madhuban) of Mau district were forced to leave the area and have become completely homeless due to the flood;

(c) if so, the steps taken or likely to be taken to stop the occurance of this kind of floods and compensate the victims; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, with details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per reports received from the State Government of Uttar Predesh, loss of life and property due to heavy floods in Mau and Ballia districts is indicated below:—

District	Human lives lost	Houses/Huts Damaged
Mau	3	6019
Ballia	4	4478

(b) to (d) The State Government has reported that about 39065 people in Mau district were temporarily rendered homeless but soon returned to their houses after water receded. In both Mau and Ballia districts, financial assistance of Rs. 1,500/- was provided to each of the affected families. The people in flood affected areas of Ballia district were moved safer places and provided shelter

in the relief camps. Assitance of Rs. 25,000/- per family was provided to the next of kin of 4 deceased.

Flood Menace

501. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise damage caused to life and property including roads and landmass, standing crops, etc. by flood;

(b) number of waves of flood in each State and report of scientific analysis about flood menace in the globe;

(c) State-wise amount of relief/ assistance asked for, amount declared by the Prime Minister, amount released so far indicating the source of fund;

(d) whether any policy is being adopted in disbursement of such assistance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A Statement indicating State-wise extent of damage during 1998-99 due to rains/floods etc., as reported by the states, is annexed. [*See* Appendix *185,* Annexure No. *12*] The States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal reportedly experienced rains/ floods in more than one spells/waves.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The Prime Minister announced assistance of Rs. 150.00 crore to Uttar Pradesh, Rs. 50.00 crore to karnataka and Rs. 200.00 crore to Andhra Pradesh, which has been released to the states. These amount has been released as Plan assistance to Uttar Pradesh and as advance Plan assistance to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In additional, fourth quarterly instalment of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been released to Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh to speed up the relief work.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the Sabha.

Co-operative Societies

502. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a co-operative society registered under the State Act can get itself registered under multi-State Co-operative Act;

(b) if so, what are the formalities to be observed by such society; and

(c) how many societies have been converted from State Societies to Multi-State Societies during 1997-98, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A co-operative society registered under the State Act may, by an amendment to its bye-laws, extending its area of operation to more than one State convert itself into a multi-State Cooprative Society after registration of necessary amendments to its bye-laws by the Central Registrar is inconsultation with the concerned Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

During the year 1997-98 (1.4.97 to 31.3.98) 7 (seven) societies were converted into Multi-State Cooperative Societies. The State wise break is as follows:

Maharashtra	— 05
Goa	— 01
Assam	— 01
TOTAL:	— 07